

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1.) Claim Amendments

The Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the subject matter of claim 2, which has been cancelled; claims 5, 6, 9, 10 and 16, which were dependent from claim 2, have been amended to depend from claim 1. Claims 3, 4, 7, 8 and 11-13 have been amended to make minor stylistic changes. No new matter has been introduced in the claims. Claims 1, 3-13 and 16 remain pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

2.) Examiner Objections - Claims

The Examiner objected to claim 4 because of a typographical error. The Applicants have amended claim 4 as suggested by the Examiner.

3.) Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

The Examiner rejected claims 1-13, and 16 as being anticipated by Stratford, et al. (US 6785558). The Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the subject matter of dependent claim 2 and, therefore, will address the rejection of claim 1 in view of the Examiner's stated reasons for rejection of claims 1 and 2. The Applicants traverse all of the rejections.

First, it is to be remembered that anticipation requires that the disclosure of a single piece of prior art reveals every element, or limitation, of a claimed invention. Furthermore, the limitations that must be met by an anticipatory reference are those set forth in each statement of function in a claims limitation, and such a limitation cannot be met by an element in a reference that performs a different function, even though it may be part of a device embodying the same general overall concept. Whereas Stratford fails to anticipate each and every limitation of claim 1, as amended, that claim is not anticipated thereby.

Claim 1, as amended, recites:

1. An interface in a Radio Base Station for transmission and reception of user data to and from one or more user equipments in a radio communication network, comprising:

a plurality of links having a minimized bandwidth for carrying data independent of the functionality of the radio access network and the airborne radio transmission; and,

one or more user data links for uplink and downlink, a control and supervision link, and a synchronization link. (emphasis added).

Stratford does not teach an interface including a synchronization link. Instead of an interface including a synchronization link, Stratford performs synchronization "by piggybacking on the synchronization provisions already in place in the digital network." (column 12, lines 18, *et seq.*). Stratford relies on clock recovery based on a frame size inherent in the network; for example, "SONET frames [that] are always 125 μ s long" are used to "get timing information from the SONET framer." (column 12, lines 24-33). Using clock recovery techniques actually teaches away from the claimed invention, which relies on an interface including a synchronization link. Therefore, Stratford fails to anticipate claim 1.

Because Stratford fails to teach an interface including a synchronization link, as recited in claim 1, it also fails to teach an interface in which the synchronization link is used to control the transmission time of the user data link, as recited in claim 9. Similarly, Stratford fails to teach an interface in which the synchronization link is used to time stamp the reception time of a user data link, as recited in claim 10. Likewise, Stratford fails to teach an interface in which an uplink interface serializer is controlled by a synchronization link, as recited in claim 16. Therefore, Stratford also fails to anticipate claims 9, 10 and 16. Furthermore, whereas claims 3-8 and 11-13 are dependent from claim 1, and include the limitations thereof, those claims are also not anticipated by Stratford.

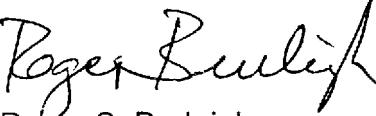
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicants believe all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for claims 1, 3-13 and 16.

The Applicants request a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,



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